

Application 10/570,804

Docket No.: 13156-00038-US1

Response to office action dated October 4, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 20 of the specification to read as follows:

The process of EP 1 300 383 A2 serves to prepare diacetals of glyoxal. The process comprises the reaction of from 40 to 75% by weight aqueous glyoxal with methanol in the presence of an acidic catalyst. This involves contacting a liquid mixture which, at the start of the reaction, contains methanol and glyoxal in a molar ratio of at least 15 : 1 and water in a concentration of not more than 8% by weight with the acidic catalyst until the concentration of the 1,1,2,2-tetramethoxyethane formed in the reaction mixture has reached at least 70% of the equilibrium concentration. Not more than 5% by weight of the methanol is distilled off at the same time or beforehand. The reaction effluents resulting from this process comprise at least 1,1,2,2-tetramethoxyethane, glyoxal dimethyl acetal, water and methanol. Before the reaction, the aqueous glyoxal is preferably brought by dewatering to a content of from 60 to 75% by weight of glyoxal. This results in better yields being obtained in the acetalization. The dewatering is preferably effected under a reduced pressure of from 100 to 200 mbar.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 8 of the specification to read as follows:

Further definitions in Figure 2 are: a methanol, b glyoxal solution, c reactive feed, B1 stirred vessel to store the reactive mixture, B2 vessel to store stream a and top effluent i', P1, P2, P3 pump pumps with closed-loop flow control, V evaporator, k evaporator effluent and h condenser output.